

BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD.

VOL. XV. NO. 40.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1906

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BROWNSVILLE IS INDIGNANT

DEMANDS FOR PROTECTION IGNORED BY STATE OFFICIALS.

Even More Urgent Telegrams Are Sent to Austin and Washington
Today.—Copies of Previous Messages, Which Have
Elicited Almost No Response.

The citizens' committee held another meeting this morning at which it was decided that, as the state and federal governments had paid almost no attention to the messages sent to the various officers appealing for aid in protecting the city of Brownsville from further outrage, as well as in the investigation of the crime committed against our people by federal soldiers, the committee would send other and more urgent appeals to the same officers. At the same time, it was decided to send to the press of the state copies of all telegrams which have been sent by the committee, appealing to the state in general for sympathy and aid in the critical condition which confronts the city of Brownsville. In accordance with the decision of the committee, in order that our people may be fully informed as to what has been done in their behalf, copies of all telegrams sent, from date, and the very scant replies received, have been furnished THE HERALD. They are as follows:

August 14.—To Adj. General Hulen, Austin: Negro troops without provocation broke out of garrison about twelve o'clock last night and shot up town in general, killing one man and severely wounding Lieutenant-Police. Also riddling many residences, leading hotel, store-houses and other places with bullets. Our citizens are greatly excited, and demand immediate removal of soldiers, or further and worse trouble anticipated. To this end most earnestly solicit your assistance, and ask that you come here at once, and make thorough investigation in behalf of citizens of this State. Please advise Governor hereof and answer. John Bartlett, County Judge; Frederick J. Combe, Mayor; James A. Browne, Alderman.

HIS ANSWER.

Austin, Tex., Aug. 14.—To Hon. John Bartlett, County Judge, Cameron County: Your telegram this date, I have taken this matter up with Federal officials and will do all I can to relieve the situation, please keep me fully informed by telegraph. HULEN, Adj. Gen.

August 14.—To Hon. James B. Wells, Dallas, Texas.—Negro soldiers broke out of garrison about twelve o'clock last night, without provocation, and shot up town generally, killing Frank Natus, severely wounding Lieutenant-Police Joe Dominguez, killing his horse. There are at least fifteen bullet holes in Louis Cowen's house, many shots also fired into Miller Motel, store under Wells' office saloons, stores and other buildings. Citizens will hold Mass Meeting this morning to have Government remove said troops from here. Solicit aid of Culberson, Bailey, Garner, and other friends, immediately, for such purpose; for, if said troops remain here, further and worse trouble anticipated. Great excitement in town. Show to Governor Lanham.

Answer. (Signed) John Bartlett, County Judge; Fred J. Combe, Mayor; James A. Browne, Alderman; Doctor J. H. Florence, State Quarantine Officer; Celedonio Garza, Sheriff; George Connor, Chief of Police; Frank W. Kibbe, City Attorney.

THE ANSWER

Dallas, Texas, August 15.—To Hons. John Bartlett, F. J. Combe and others.—Your wire of yesterday has caused me grave concern. I have done everything possible for the speedy protection of our people and the prevention of repetition of such outrages. Governor

Lanham is waiting advices from Adjutant General Hulen before acting, and Senators Bailey and Culberson have wired Secretary of War and doing everything in their power to aid us. Please immediately wire me situation full. Will come home at once I can help our people any way. (Signed) JAMES B. WELLS.

Aug. 15.—Hon James B. Wells, Dallas, Texas: Committee of Citizens have been investigating and it is their unanimous opinion that no effort should be spared to have negro soldiers removed at once. The attack was made by a conspiracy of the soldiers. We cannot tell when they may break out again. They cannot be trusted. Dominguez's arm amputated. Many have sent their wives and children away, and those remaining nervous and apprehensive. Prompt action by Governor should be taken.

JOHN BARLEVY, County Judge.

TO THE PRESIDENT.

Brownsville, Texas, August 15, 1906. To Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.—The undersigned, a committee of citizens appointed at and by a massmeeting of the people of Brownsville held in the Federal Court House, in this city on Tuesday, the fourteenth instant, to investigate the attack made on this city by negro troops now stationed at Fort Brown, adjoining the city, after an almost continuous session of two days, find as follows:

That at a few moments before twelve midnight, on Monday the thirteenth, a body of United States soldiers, of the Twenty-Fifth United States Infantry, colored, numbering between twenty and thirty men, emerged from the garrison enclosure, carrying their rifles and abundant supply of ammunition, and at once begun firing on the town, and directly into dwellings, offices, stores, and at police and citizens. During this firing one citizen, Frank Natus, was killed in his yard, and the lieutenant of police, who rode towards the firing, had his horse killed under him, and was shot through the right arm which has since been amputated at the elbow. After firing about two hundred shots the soldiers retired to their quarters. After the most diligent inquiry we find that no shots were fired from the town, into or towards the garrison, nor any provocation given for the attack.

We find that the negro soldiers, who have been stationed here only a few weeks, have taken exception to the fact that they have been refused liquor in the saloons, at the same bars or counters as the white citizens, and that a few days ago a negro soldier was knocked down for rudely jostling a white woman, the wife of a federal officer, off the sidewalk.

We solemnly assert that no other provocation, in any shape or manner, has been given to those soldiers since their arrival here.

We find that threats have been made by them that they will repeat this outrage. We do not believe their officers can restrain them, there being but five commissioned officers.

Our condition, Mr President is this: Our women and children are terrorized, and our men are practically under constant alarm and watchfulness. No community can stand this strain for more than a few days.

We look to you for relief. We ask you to have these troops at once removed from Fort Brown, and replaced by white soldiers.

We appeal to you as Commander-in-Chief, and as President our whole people. John Bartlett, County Judge; Frank W. Kibbe, City Attorney; Celedonio Garza, Sheriff; E. H. Goodrich, Supt.

Public Instr; George Connor, Chief of Police; John G. Fernandez, Banker; Frederick J. Combe, Mayor; James A. Browne, Alderman; J. H. Florence, State Quarantine Officer; J. O. Wheeler, Editor Daily Herald; William Kelly, Chairman Citizens' Committee.

TO THE GOVERNOR

Brownsville, Texas, August 15, 1905.—To Hon. S. W. T. Lanham, Governor, Austin Texas.—Monday night, August thirteenth about twenty United States Troops broke out of garrison at Fort Brown, fully armed with government rifles, supplied with abundant ammunition, shot up town generally, killing one man, severely wounding another, and shot at a number of citizens, riddling many houses with bullets. Committee composed of fourteen of the most conservative men of Brownsville, appointed thereto, by mass-meeting of citizens of leading professional men, merchants, and our other best citizens, have been thoroughly investigating matter for two days, and find that there was no overt act on part of any citizen of Brownsville to cause such treatment at the hands of said soldiers; the whole affair seems to have been a deep-laid plot and premeditated design to kill and intimidate our citizens. Besides soldiers who entered town, many shots were fired from barracks in garrison. Commissioned Officers appear to be unable to apprehend the guilty parties, and knew nothing at all of the soldiers' actions that night. All of our citizens, specially women and children are greatly excited, and almost demoralized. Many families fearing more and worse trouble are leaving town. Soldiers threaten to break out again, and we feel that should they so desire, commanding officers in charge will be absolutely powerless to prevent them from doing so. Therefore, we, representing all of the citizens of Brownsville, and as citizens of the State of Texas, appeal to you, as our governor, and most earnestly request and implore you to immediately demand of the federal authorities, the immediate removal of all negro troops now stationed at Fort Brown, as we all fear that our lives, and the safety of our wives and children are greatly endangered by reason of said soldiers' presence here. You must act at once as the situation is very grave. If you think best we recommend that you send General Hulen here, immediately, to investigate entire situation, and we will lend him every assistance in our power to facilitate the same. (Signed as above by committee.)

Messages of practically the same effect as that sent the governor were sent to U. S. Senators Culberson and Bailey, omitting that part relating to General Hulen. No reply was received to these three messages, save a line or two from Culberson, saying

Your telegram is received and shall have immediate attention.

The committee after waiting two days then sent the following:

Aug. 17.—To Hon. S. W. T. Lanham, Austin, Texas. Please refer to our telegram of fifteenth. The excitement among our people is not subsiding. The fears of our women and children cannot be allayed by argument. They feel unsafe while the negro troops are in our midst. We cannot stand the tension arising from their fears, and the constant watchfulness it makes necessary. We implore you to act at once for our relief, and to answer this immediately.

By order of The Citizens' Committee, WILLIAM KELLY, Chairman.

STILL NO ANSWER.

Still no answer has come from the governor or from any other official addressed, save the brief ones noted above. This morning the committee, filled with resentment which is shared by all of our citizens, and in response to the popular clamor for immediate action on the part of state or federal authorities for the relief of the town, met as stated and drafted the following urgent message which were filed this morning:

TO THE PRESIDENT.

Brownsville, Texas, August 18.—To Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.—We appeal to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

"THEY MUST GO"

Our remaining Straw hats. Prices on these Straws have been Smashed to Smithereens. Hats 50c and up now 25c.

"THEY HAVE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH"

and must now make way for the fine line of felt and wool hats soon due to arrive.

"LEST WE FORGET"

Let us again remind you that in times of peace or otherwise one needs clothes. If you need shirts, hats, clothing, collars, ties etc., you want "THE GOODS," and the place to get them is at the "FAMOUS." "Ask Your Friends."

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